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Executive for Administration and Management

15 March 1948

Chief, Reference Center

Agenda for the meeting on March 22nd of the IAC Standing Committee

1. Scientific Attaches. Reference Center has no comment to offer on the proposal concerning Scientific Attaches except that, if the proposal is implemented, Reference Center will provide such machine service as may be requested for the indexing and listing of the Attaches' intelligence output. It is also suggested that Scientific Attaches, if sent into the field in consequence of this proposal, should receive careful indoctrination by Biographical Intelligence Register and Foreign Industrial Register in CIA before setting forth.

2. Biographic Data on Scientific Personalities. The proposal that CIA assume primary responsibility for this category of biographic intelligence originated in Reference Center after considerable discussion with biographic analysts in the other IAC agencies. The following points deserve mention:

a. There is now great duplication of effort among the IAC agencies in compiling data on foreign scientific personalities. Navy Department analysts and their clerical help spend a very large proportion of their time in abstracting such data from State and War Department forms. The same is true in both the State and War Departments, where analysts must deal with the information received on Navy Department forms. Files and dossiers maintained in the several departments overlap.

b. Overlap, and duplication of effort, are far less extensive in those categories of biographic intelligence where primary responsibility has been assumed by specific agencies. All now turn to State for data on political personalities, to War for data on military personalities, and to Navy for data on naval personalities. If primary responsibility for scientific personalities is concentrated in CIA, (1) analysts of other agencies need no longer devote extensive attention to such data when received from sources external to their own agency, (2) they will be able to devote more concentrated attention and deal more thoroughly with such data when received through their own agencies' sources, and (3) they will be assured of a single complete file in CIA of all such data received from all IAC agencies.

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d. Working agreements between CIA and other IAC agencies now stand as follows:

(1) State Department files are currently being exploited, for index purposes, by CIA personnel working in State Department. This project is proving of mutual advantage to both offices, for the machine index reveals duplications within State Department files which would not otherwise come to light.

(2) War Department currently transmits data of great value to CIA concerning scientific personalities, and it is believed that cooperation on the working level is reasonably effective.

(3) The Scientific Branch, ONI, is cooperative but has transmitted few data save on specific request. It is believed to be too short of personnel to exploit fully the data on scientific personalities which it receives. On the working level this office has expressed the belief that its efficiency will be improved if it is authorized by ONI to cease abstracting data from War Department and State Department forms, and to concentrate its abstracting work on data from Navy sources. Such authorization by ONI would depend, presumably, upon the effectiveness of CIA in providing a central service for all IAC agencies.

(4) The Air Forces, T-2, have provided some piece-meal data of real value. Wright Field, through its foreign scientists, is believed to have come into possession of considerable biographic information which should be centrally indexed.

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3. No comment is offered on the proposal concerning the Inter-departmental Intelligence Production Program.

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CIA Do the abstracting
as well as index?

AEC
Air {concurs
State}

Army OK
Navy cannot make "abstracts"
for CIA

Biographic workers
Fri Am ?

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